



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340

13 SEP 1989



U-1026/PW-MIA

Honorable Robert C. Smith
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing in regard to your 21 August letter requesting information on the crew of an EC47Q which crashed in Laos in 1973, and particularly NAME who was aboard that aircraft.

As background you should be aware that sanitized intelligence reports from February and May 1973, which were released to the families of crew members, and assertions made by a former U.S. Air Force intelligence analyst have led some to the erroneous belief that at least four men from the EC47Q survived and were captured. A few years ago DIA analysts conducted an exhaustive analysis of all available intelligence and operational data surrounding the loss of the aircraft. We concluded that there is no evidence of survivors from this incident and there is no evidence that any of the crew members were captured by enemy forces. A more detailed discussion of the facts in this case are attached for your perusal. This same report has been previously provided to the relatives of the crew members.

In response to your final question, DIA does not make status determinations such as MIA, KIA, etc., as this is the responsibility of the Military Services. With only one exception, all of the unaccounted for American servicemen in Southeast Asia are listed by their parent service as "killed-in-action/body-not-recovered."

Sincerely,

Charles F. Trowbridge, Jr.
CHARLES F. TROWBRIDGE, JR.
Deputy Chief
Special Office for Prisoners
of War and Missing in Action

1 enclosure a/s

JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER - - CASUALTY DATA DIVISION

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 3 October 1990

***** BIOGRAPHIC SECTION *****

REFNO: 1983-0-05 (ACCNO 4050)
Name: CRESSMAN, PETER RICHARD

Status: (N) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED
Date Status assigned: 22 Feb 1973

National: UNITED STATES	Race: CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit: 58835
Service: AIR FORCE	Sex: MALE	Survive: 4
Grade: E4	Hair: BROWN	RPD: 2
SSAN: DATA	Eyes: BLUE	Grave corr:
Serial No: #	Height: 70 Inches 1.78 mtrs	Weapon: .38 CAL PISTOL
Birth date: 23 May 1951	Weight: 170 lbs. 77.0 kilos	Weapon Ser.: K663689
Duty pos: RADIO OPR	Complexion: RUDDY	Partial Rsvld:
PW CAMP: #	Blood Type: O +	Category: 4B
Religion: CATHOLIC	Home State: NEW JERSEY	

Case type: CRASH SITE

***** SITE SECTION *****

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE
UTM: 48PYC143291
Lat/Long: 153755N1065957E
Country: LAOS
Military Region: 4
Mission Province: SARAVANE
Mission Date: 5 Feb 1973
Mission Category: 1
Location Analysis: Remote area.

***** J.C.R.C. ACTIVITY SUMMARY *****

Negotiation Folders Passed: Feb 90, Oct 88, Aug 88

*** VEHICLE DATA ***

Vehicle Type: EC47Q
Crash Type:
Call Sign: BARON-52
Year: 43
Serial: 48636
Engine Type: R1830
1 Serial: 103321
2 Serial: 103843

CASE: 1983

Circumstances of loss - 10 March 1976

NAMES

NAME

SGT PETER R. CRESSMAN,
NAMES

G, ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR, WERE FLYING AN EC47, (#43-48636, CALL SIGN BARON 52), ON A NIGHT ELECTRONIC RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER LAOS. LAST RADIO CONTACT WAS MADE WITH BARON 52 AT 0100 HOURS ON 5 FEBRUARY 1973.

(U) ON 7 FEBRUARY A FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER LOCATED THE CRASH SITE OF THE AIRCRAFT, AND ON 9 FEBRUARY THREE PARARESCUEMEN AND ONE ELECTRONIC WARFARE SPECIALIST WERE INSERTED BY HELICOPTER INTO THE CRASH SITE. THE AIRCRAFT WAS CONFIRMED TO BE BARON 52. OF THE FOUR BODIES OBSERVED BY ONE OF THE PARARESCUEMEN IN THE CRASH SITE, THE FOUR-MAN TEAM WAS ABLE TO RECOVER ONLY THE PARTIAL REMAINS OF ONE INDIVIDUAL, SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS 1LT NAME. THE CRASH SITE WAS IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES YC 143 291. (REF 1, 2, 3, & 4)

(U) DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 1LT BERNHARDT, THE REMAINING CREW MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

Subsequent Information - 15 July 1987

(U) SOURCE PROVIDED INFORMATION CONCERNING THE 1973 SHOOTDOWN OF AN EC-47 AND THE SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS. THIS PROBABLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 1983. (REF 5)

References - 10 March 1976

(U) REFERENCES USED: 1. MSG , 8 CSG 050634Z FEB 73. 2. MSG (U), 56 CSG 101119Z FEB 73. 3. MSG (U), 40 ARRS 091000Z FEB 73. 4. MSG (FOUO), 56 CSG 091014Z FEB 73. 5. REFCON (U), JCRC LIAISON BANGKOK THAI, 221054Z NOV 84, PARA 3A.

Negotiation actions - 1 September 1982

(U) A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON

NAMES

CASE: 1983

NAMES

PETER R. CRESSMAN, NAMES
WAS PASSED TO THE LAO GOVERNMENT DURING THE SEP 82
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES VISIT TO LAOS AND DURING THE SEP 85 LAO VISIT
TO JCRC.

Negotiation actions - 16 June 1988

(U) A CASE NARRATIVE CONCERNING REFNO 1983 WAS PASSED TO LAO VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SOUBANH DURING HIS 12 JUNE 88 VISIT TO JCRC.

(U) A NEGOTIATION FOLDER CONCERNING THIS CASE WAS PASSED DURING THE 11-13 NOV 1987 JCRC/LAO MEETING IN VIENTIANE.

(U) THIS CASE WAS NOMINATED TO THE LPDR FOR A JOINT EXCAVATION AND A NEGOTIATION FOLDER WAS PASSED IN APRIL 1985 AND SEPTEMBER 1985.

(U) A NEGOTIATION FOLDER PERTAINING TO ALL PARTIES WAS PASSED DURING THE 22 - 23 AUGUST 88 JCRC/LAO CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN LAOS.

(U) DURING THE 24-28 OCTOBER 1988 LAO VISIT TO THE JCRC, THE FOLLOWING CASES WERE PASSED: 1333, 0354, 0967, 1053, 1703, 1731, 1733, 0902, 1530, 1600, 1983 AND 1994.

(U) DURING THE 1-2 FEB 90 CONSULTATIVE MEETING, THE JCRC PASSED MAPS ANNOTATED WITH 90 CRASH SITES LOCATED IN XIANGKHOANG, KHAMMOUAN AND SALAVAN PROVINCES. THE LAO ACCEPTED THE MAPS AND AGREED TO STUDY THEM. REFNO 1983 WAS ONE OF THE SITES INVOLVED.

Associated individuals - 10 March 1976

(U) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS:

R. CRESSMAN 1983-0-05,
DATA

NAMES

PETER